CONDITIONS AND POLITICS IN OCCUPIED WESTERN EUROPE 1940-1945

PART ONE. 1940 (Belgium, France, Norway, Spain, Sweden)

Selected from PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE CLASS FO 371
(General Correspondence. Political)

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

This is the first part of a major research collection for modern European history. This programme has been selected from the relevant Foreign Office files. It gives detailed information on the social, political and economic conditions in Western Europe during the German occupation. This first part includes certain materials relating to Spain and Sweden, and affords a rich and unusual primary source for students of war-time Europe.

The material has an astonishingly wide-ranging interest. Almost every theme is documented, including German attempts to win over important groups in occupied countries, the reaction to and affect of the German occupation, the propaganda struggle, and the minutiae of the various diplomatic manoeuvres during 1940 when both Germany and Britain attempted to influence countries not involved in the war.

This first part contains over 1,000 individual folders, each containing several documents and each annotated with commentary, analysis or remark by the Foreign Office. It provides not only a key and multi-facetted source for information about countries under German domination but also for the diplomatic and propaganda struggle in which the Foreign Office was so intimately involved.

The starting date for the material is taken as April 1940 though some documents are dated earlier. In all cases complete files have been filmed and there are a few instances when files contain material outside the theme of this collection.